

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for making soft magnetic material comprising:
a first heat treatment step applying a temperature of at least 400 deg C and less than 900 deg C in hydrogen or inert gas to metal magnetic particles (40);
a step for forming a plurality of compound magnetic particles (30) in which an insulation film (20) surrounds said metal magnetic particle (40); and
a step for forming a shaped body by compacting said plurality of compound magnetic particles (30).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for making soft magnetic material according to claim 1 wherein said first heat treatment step includes a step for heat treating said metal magnetic particles (40) at a temperature of at least 700 deg C and less than 900 deg C.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method for making soft magnetic material according to claim 1 further comprising a second heat treatment step applying a temperature of at least 200 deg C and no more than a thermal decomposition temperature of said insulation film (20) to said shaped body.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for making soft magnetic material according to claim 1 wherein said step for forming said shaped body includes a step for forming said shaped body in which said plurality of compound magnetic particles (30) is bonded by an organic matter (40).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for making soft magnetic material according to

said metal magnetic particles ~~(10)~~ have a particle diameter distribution that is essentially solely in a range of at least 75 microns and less than 355 microns.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A soft magnetic material according to claim 10 further comprising a plurality of compound magnetic particles ~~(30)~~ containing said metal magnetic particles ~~(10)~~ and insulation film ~~(20)~~ surrounding surfaces of said metal magnetic particles ~~(10)~~.

Claim 14 (Original): A dust core made using soft magnetic material according to claim 10 wherein coercivity is no more than 1.2×10^2 A/m.